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NATIONAL VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS  
IN CANADA

by

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# NATIONAL VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA

Frederick Elkin

This report will review the highlights to date of my research on National Voluntary Associations in Canada and select out for particular discussion their relationship to government.<sup>1</sup> The major focus of the research is on the response of the Associations to recent social trends and movements in the society at large. Have the associations, for example, been influenced and, if so how, by the women's movement, social action groups, Canadian and French-Canadian nationalism, and the increasing activities of government in health and welfare areas?

My concern in this project is with National Voluntary Associations interested and active in general social and welfare activities. Political, professional, business, and labour groups are not included. Also omitted because of limitations of time and scheduling are associations classified as sport, ethnic, and religious.

In this report, we shall first discuss our sampling procedure, method, and classification of associations; and then our general data on National Voluntary Associations. This will be followed by a consideration of the functions of the national offices; organizational change; and relationships with government, noting especially problems of funding and interest group activity. The conclusion will touch on some major problem areas in government relationships.

## SAMPLE, METHOD, AND CLASSIFICATION

National Voluntary Associations in Canada are so varied in size, structure and activity that it is impossible to obtain a representative sample. Any criteria of selection necessarily involves some arbitrary element.<sup>2</sup> We chose to select out approximately one hundred National Voluntary Associations

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<sup>1</sup>The current study is the first phase of a long run research on voluntary associations, it is hoped that some of the lacunae will be covered in later phases.

<sup>2</sup>The most complete listing of associations in Canada is found in Brian Land's Directory of Associations in Canada (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1975).

which met the following criteria: They would:

- 1) Be generally active in the areas of health and welfare
- 2) Have a national Canadian office
- 3) Have members or volunteers in at least three provinces (which unfortunately leaves out strictly French-Canadian associations)
- 4) Not be so highly specialized in objective that they would be immune to outside influence
- 5) Have at least a few hundred active members or volunteers.

Following these criteria, such organizations as the following were not included: Rotary International, Loyal Order of Moose, Soroptimist Federation of America, Big Sisters Association, Canadian Medic-Alert Foundation, Royal Life-Saving Society, Jeunesses Musicales du Canada, and Women and Film.

In order to make our selection of associations, we first mailed out screening questionnaires to groups with which we were not familiar. Our final sample consisted of 94 associations, of which 84 completed and returned our questionnaire. In sum, we believe that our sample represents well the major national voluntary associations in Canada in the health and welfare area. (The associations in the sample are listed by classification in Appendix A.)

The questionnaire sought information on such matters as the structure of and trends in membership, the composition of the national Boards, relationships with government, changes in objectives in recent years if any, and the impact of such movements as women's liberation, "citizens' participation," nationalism and youth movements. (See Appendix B for a copy of the questionnaire).

For purposes of analysis, the organizations selected for study were divided into six categories--fraternal, health, women, youth, domestic service and international service. Obviously no simple system of classification can do justice to the widely varied activities of national organizations in Canada. Yet most organizations fall neatly into one or another overriding category of activity or membership--a category which is recognized in the public image, gives kinship (perhaps by way of common objectives or means of raising funds) to related organizations, and is accepted in the minds of members. Some associa-



tions, such as the YWCA and YMCA notably do not fit any one classification and their placements are admittedly arbitrary. The number and proportion of organizations in each classification are as follows:

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Health	19	23
Domestic Service	17	20
Women	14	17
International Service	12	14
Fraternal	11	13
Youth	11	13

In general, the fraternal, youth, and women's organizations in Canada have longer traditions, with founding dates before the great depression. The health and service organizations tend to be a newer phenomenon, having grown up following World War II when there developed a greatly increasing consciousness of the needs of the poor and handicapped in our own society and the needs of third world countries elsewhere (Table 1).

Table 1  
Year of Founding of Associations By Type

Type	Before 1913	1914- 1928	1929- 1945	1946- 1959	After 1960	No. of Cases (N)
	%	%	%	%	%	
Fraternal	27	64	9			11
Health	16	16	11	37	21	19
Service, Domestic	12	6	12	12	59	17
<del>Service</del> , Internatl	9	9	18	27	36	11
Women	46	23	8		23	13
Youth		46	18	9	27	11

The great majority of our associations, 81%, especially in the health and service areas, affirmed what we called instrumental objectives, that is, they sought to effect some changes in the society at large. The youth organizations, however, and to a lesser degree, the fraternal, were more likely to affirm expressive goals, they were most concerned with the personal growth and social development of their members (Table 2).

#### BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR SAMPLE ASSOCIATIONS

Membership. Membership in voluntary associations is very difficult to define. We employed four main categories--dues

paying members, non-dues paying volunteers, clients, and club memberships. Some associations, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, as an example, had several types of participants. In our sample, 74% of the associations collected dues and 55% reported non-dues paying volunteers. We found no significant relationship between the structuring of the membership and the size of the organization (Table 3).

Table 2  
Type of Objective

	<u>Instrumental</u>	<u>Expressive</u>	<u>Both</u>	N
	%	%	%	
Fraternal	56	36	9	11
Health	100			19
Service, Domestic	100			17
Service, International	100			12
Women	86		14	14
Youth	18	64	18	<u>11</u>
(Average)	81	13	6	84

Table 3  
Membership\*

Form of Membership	No. of Associations	Percentage
Dues paying members	60	71
Non-dues paying volunteers	40	48
Clients	23	27
Club or branch units	11	13

Provincial Distribution. One of our criteria for a "national association" was that it have members in at least three provinces. Sixty-eight per cent of our associations had members from all provinces, and 18% in all provinces except Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. Ten per cent have members in all regions, but not necessarily in all provinces (Table 4).

Branches. Most national organizations are made up of branches to which members belong; in only 19%, the Vanier Institute of the Family, for example, do members affiliate directly with the national office. Where there are branches, they are most likely to be at the local level, singly or in combination with provinces or regions, this being the case for 60% of our associations.

International Affiliation. Sixty-one per cent of our associ-



ations are affiliated with international organizations, with Geneva and London the major sites for the headquarters offices.

French-Canadian and French-language Participation. By virtue of our criteria for selection, we did not include organizations which are primarily French-speaking. Twenty-five of our organizations, however, report that they are completely bilingual, their members may communicate in either English or French and the organizations publish materials in both languages. Another 25% report that their national offices operate in English, but they have French-language branches. Nineteen per cent have some French-speaking members, but the working language of the organization is English. Some 11% are completely English. Including combinations that were checked, all the percentages would be higher except for the all-English groups. (Table 5)

Table 4  
Provincial Membership

Membership in	N	%
All provinces	57	68
Ont., Que., B.C.	1	1
All except Newfoundland, P.E.I.	15	18
All except Atlantic provinces	1	1
All except Prairie provinces	1	1
All regions, but not all prov.	8	10
No Answer	1	1
Total	84	100

Funding. The major sources of funding were public fund campaigns, membership dues, and the government. Public fund campaigns were the primary source of funds for 34% of our organizations and the second largest source for 19%. Membership dues were the primary source for 26% and the second source for 14%. Government was the primary source for 22% and the second source for 17%. Other sources, sometimes of great significance for particular organizations were participation fees, investment income, donations, and fees for service. Questions of government funding will be considered later in the report.

Locuses of Control. The wide variations in the structures of the national voluntary associations preclude any simple description of locuses of control. The organizations have consti-

Table 5

Question: Regarding French-Canadian or French-language participation, please check the most appropriate statement.

	N	%	% incl combinations
We are an all-English organization	9	11	
We have some native French-speaking Canadians in our organization, but our working language is English.	16	19	31
Our National Office operates in English, but we do have French as well as English-language branches.	21	25	32
We have an independent sister French-language organization with a Head Office in Quebec.	3	4	10
We are a completely bilingual organization. Members may communicate in either English or French, and we publish in both languages	22	25	26
Combinations of the above, and other	14	17	

tutions and by-laws and the various levels are expected to abide by them. Local branches often have areas of complete freedom, for example, in their local programming, but do not generally act, except as members of a federation, on national policy matters. The international office may sometimes be considered the "highest body," but it may or may not, depending on its authority, set overall rules and guidelines (for example, whether men may be admitted to a women's organization, or women to a men's). Forty-one per cent of our respondents reported that the greatest autonomy lies at the national level of the organization and 24% at the local level. Such figures, however, without more information on the actual structuring of the organizations, are of limited significance.

#### FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE

The focus in this research has been on the national offices of the voluntary associations rather than the local, provincial or regional. Each level, of course, has its distinctive functions and the national offices do not ordinarily operate at the grass roots or become involved in local programs with members or clients. One function of the national office is to provide a coordinating role for the branches. This role is seen in several of our measures (Table 6). Ninety-six per cent of the respondents said they distribute materials to branches and/or the general public, 89% organize conferences, 77% specifically said



Table 6  
Major Responsibilities of the National Office\*

Organizations:	Number	Percentage
Distribution of materials to branches and/or the general public.	81	96
Public Relations and/or education on the national level.	77	92
Contact with other national organizations in Canada.	75	89
Organization of conferences.	75	89
Contact with the Federal government	75	89
Representation to government on issues of interest	74	88
Coordination of membership or branch activities throughout Canada	65	77
Fund raising	50	60
Contact with the international office of the organization	47	56
"Trouble shooting" for branches	46	55

\*If a respondent failed to reply to any part of this question, it was assumed that the activity was not a major responsibility of the organization.

they coordinate membership or branch activity throughout Canada, and 55% did "trouble shooting" for branches, if necessary.

The national offices, in so far as they provide a national perspective, may also perform an important educational function. The headquarters office can bring together information about local needs and concerns throughout the country and provide an awareness of these differences for the association as a whole. Problems of bilingualism and international participation, for example, may be of little intrinsic interest to local groups in many parts of Canada, but they are nevertheless brought to their attention by reports that emanate from the national office and its personnel.

A second major function of the national office is to represent the entire organization to both the Canadian public and to external agencies. Representing the association to relevant groups of the public is not an unimportant task since almost invariably, the association is interested in gaining support for its projects, raising funds, and recruiting personnel. Over 95% of our associations report some concern with their public image and 92% speak of public relations or education

on the national level as a major responsibility. Almost as many, 89%, also noted that they had contact with the Federal government and with other national organizations in Canada. We shall return to the relationship with the Federal government. Regarding relations with other national associations, we note that over 90% of our respondents report that they cooperate regularly with other national voluntary organizations and 50% say that this collaboration is greater now than it was 10 years ago (only 2% say it is less). In recent years, the health, youth, and women's associations<sup>have</sup> been active in liaison or umbrella type groups which consider and sometimes act on the problems the member associations have in common.

Contact with their international offices is also a major responsibility of the associations which are internationally affiliated; this was cited by some 56% of the organizations in our sample. Often the Canadian associations actively participate in the international organizations and their projects; at minimum, they provide and receive information in clearing house operations.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

On the whole, national voluntary associations, including those in our sample, follow relatively traditional paths in their organization and orientations, they are not new groups, unique in form or anxious to do battle with the established structure and processes of the society. It does not follow, however, that they are static and unaffected by changes in the environment. Changing relationships with government will be considered in the next section, here we discuss only changes in the organizations' objectives and the effect of certain broad movements in the society at large.

The basic objectives of most of our associations, according to our data, have not changed in the past 10 years, only 18% indicated significant modifications. However, over half of the organizations reported some major extension of their earlier activities or a new focus. The Canadian Council on Children and Youth, for example, places greater emphasis on Child Advocacy than before, the Vanier Institute of the Family has moved towards a recognition and study of alternate family styles, and the Boy Scouts of Canada have extended their activity to cover



a younger age level and Eskimo groups.

It does not appear from our data that the recent years have brought any significant change in the composition of the members or the Boards of Directors of our organizations. Relatively few, less than 10% for any category, report an increase in the proportion of women, young people under thirty, French Canadians, blue collar workers, lower white collar workers, members of minority ethnic groups, or residents of the Atlantic or Prairie Provinces.

A questionnaire is a poor device to obtain information on the impact on organizations of social movements in the society at large, yet our results from the questionnaire are suggestive. Most of the organizations acknowledge that recent movements have had some effect or another on them (Table 7).

Cited almost equally as having influence, each noted by over 40% of our organizations were women's liberation, local action or citizens' participation groups, French-Canadian nationalism, and youth. The women's movement, with an assist from International Women's Year, has affected the organization in different ways. Canadian University Service Overseas, for example, has modified its staffing policy to give equal opportunities to women, the Air Cadet League has moved to allow females full participation in the cadet training program, and the Canadian Federation of University Women has simply become more actively involved in the women's movement. The organizations, by type, most affected by the women's movement are Youth 73%, Women 62%, International Service 58%, and Domestic Service 47%. Relatively few of the Health and Fraternal groups acknowledge an influence, 11% and 9% respectively.

We shall note later that local action groups seem to have influenced their parent organizations to be more demanding in their claims on government. A more specific example of local influence may be found in Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded in which community groups spearheaded the movement to modify the policy of the association from an acceptance of institutionalization for the retarded to a greater development of community facilities. Local action influence was most often noted by Service groups, 59% of the Domestic and 50% of the International, and Women's groups, 57%.

French-Canadian nationalism, more than anything else, has increased the awareness of the bilingual and bicultural character of the nation. Some associations, for example, the Boy Scouts of Canada, long ago recognized the distinctive culture and aspirations of French Canadians and, following some difficult discussions,<sup>3</sup> developed a partnership type arrangement. Other associations, such as the YMCA, YWCA, and many health groups, are very conscious of differences, political and otherwise, between English and French Canada and are anxious to gain Quebec support. In response to our questionnaire, the International Service Associations, for whom the bilingual and bicultural aspect of the country may be a significant factor in the pursuit of their objectives, most often mentioned the influence of the movement.

Table 7

Question: In recent years, do you feel that your organization has been affected by any of the following movements of initiatives?

	No. replying	% of organizations
Women's Liberation	34	42
Local Action or Citizens Participation	35	44
Canadian Nationalism	19	23
French-Canadian Nationalism	34	42
Regionalism	26	33
Youth or "Youth Culture"	35	43

The "Youth culture" and "Youth movement" are difficult to characterize and may be variously interpreted. Some groups have sought, not always very successfully, to bring young people into membership and responsible volunteer positions, others are more conscious of the increasing directness of youth and feel the need to heed their opinions and given them a greater voice in decision-making. The associations classified "Youth," some 90% of them, most often cited the influence of this movement, followed by the Fraternal, 55%.

The influence of Regionalism was cited by one third of our associations, most often by International Service, 67%, and Youth, 55%. The associations referred primarily to difficulties of regional representation and participation. This, of

<sup>3</sup>See John Meisel and Vincent Lemieux, Ethnic Relations in Canadian Voluntary Associations (Ottawa, Information Canada, 1971).



course, is a perennial Canadian problem. For some organizations, the replies may also have included the specific issue of Quebec participation.

The Canadian nationalism of recent years does not appear to be a major issue in our organizations, it was noted <sup>by</sup> 23% of the respondents. It may well be, however, that the issue is more important in those organizations outside of our sample which do not have a Canadian headquarters office and which operate under a United States or international administration. When nationalism was mentioned, the issue was sometimes political, "greater Canadian independence," for example; sometimes not, with references to a Canadian national anthem or a Heritage Day holiday.

#### INTERACTION WITH GOVERNMENT

There is little doubt that, in recent years, national voluntary associations have been experiencing great changes in their relationships with government. Only 21% of our sample (almost two thirds of which are fraternal and health organizations) say they do not currently have any direct dealings with government and 68% say that the involvement during the past five years has increased. Fewer than 5% speak of a decrease (Table 8). The involvement is primarily with the federal government, secondarily with the provincial (Table 9).

Table 8

Question: In the past five years, has your involvement with government increased or decreased?

	N	%
Greatly increased	27	33
Increased	29	35
Stayed the same	21	26
Decreased	4	5

Many factors lie at the root of this increasing involvement with government. One major development in recent years has been the rise of many social action and citizens' participation groups which actively and often militantly press for government action on behalf of themselves or their causes. This movement to a major degree began at the neighbourhood

and local level but soon spread throughout the society. Since national voluntary associations in most instances are federated groups, both responsible to and responsive to their local memberships, it is not surprising that they have been influenced by this movement.

We might also note that many issues currently in the lime-light--most notably those associated with native rights and the women's movement--a few years ago were less likely to be seen as major problem areas, calling for government action.

Table 9  
Proportion of Organizations Having  
Direct Dealings with Particular  
Levels of Government

	N	%
Federal	21	25
Federal/Provincial	28	33
Local	1	1
Provineial/Local	1	1
Federal/Provincial/Local	14	17
"No dealings" or not clear	19	22

On the other hand, undoubtedly partially in response to such movements, the very policy of government in recent years often invites groups to be active. Consumer associations, minority groups, "animateurs," and others have been directly supported by government funds, and organizations in general have been asked to suggest and undertake projects in such service, welfare and "quality of life" activities as housing, youth programs, amateur sports, and aid to the third world. The result for many associations, which in the past made their demands quietly if at all, has been a greater and more pressing involvement with government. Our data touch on this involvement in two major areas, funding and interest group activity.

Funding. In the preface to "Trends in Voluntary Support for Nongovernmental Social Service Agencies," Novia Carter says that her study demonstrates "conclusively that nongovernmental organizations have moved toward greater dependence on government financial support during the 1962 to 1972 period." Our data suggest the same results for other voluntary associations. Almost one third of our associations receive a greater proportion



of their budget from government than five years ago and fewer than 4% receive less (Table 10).

Table 10

Question: Compared to five years ago, do you receive a greater or lesser proportion of your total budget from government?

	N	%
Greater	26	32
About the Same	17	21
Lesser	3	4
Not applicable	34	42

No doubt, the government has become a major source of funds for many voluntary associations. Almost three out of five of our respondents say they are dependent on government funds, over half of these "greatly" or "very greatly" (Table 11). But it should be noted that the government is not the sole source. Only 9% of our organizations receive more than 80% of their funds from government and 14% receive between 40% and 80%. Thirty-seven per cent receive none at all (Table 12).

Table 11

Question: How dependent are you upon government funds to carry on your activities?

	N	%
Not dependent at all	34	42
Somewhat dependent	14	17
Moderately dependent	9	11
Greatly dependent	15	18
Very greatly dependent	9	11

The figures vary considerably by type of organization. The International Service organizations are most dependent on government funds, over 83% cite the government as the first or second major source of funds. Next were the Domestic Service organizations, with a proportion of 56%. The figures for other types of organizations, Health, Youth and Women's, are considerably lower. None of the Fraternal organizations listed the government as a major source. (Table 13).

At one extreme then, heavily reliant on government funds, are the Service associations which carry out aid and welfare ac-

tivities which might otherwise be direct government responsibilities. At the other extreme, are the Fraternal associations which, although they too participate in some welfare activities, raise their funds privately. The question arises for the former organizations whether, in their dependence, they lost some of their autonomy.

Table 12

Question: Roughly, what percentage of your total budget currently comes from the government?

	N	%
None	29	37
1-10	10	13
11-39	21	27
40-59	9	12
60-79	2	3
80-89	3	4
90-100	4	5

Our questionnaire did not seek information on the government departments which were approached and supplied the funds. Our interviews, however, suggest that this is often no simple matter. Many government programs have funds available, but searching them out may involve procedures which many associations find difficult and complex.

Table 13

Question: Please rank your major sources of funds.

Type	Not a Source %	Ranked 1st %	2nd %	3rd %	4th or higher %	N
Fraternal	100					11
Health	53	5	32	5	5	18
Domestic Service	38	50	0	6	6	16
International Service	8	50	33		8	12
Women	71	7	7	7	7	14
Youth	27	18	18	18	18	11

Interest Group Activity. We have already reported that 88% of our organizations view representation to government on issues of interest as one of their major responsibilities. Fewer,



although still a relatively high proportion, 63%, said they made such a representation to a government body during the past year. Almost the same proportion, and essentially the same organizations, said they took a stand on a public controversial issue during the past year (Table 14).

Most of our respondents say that their organizations would have raised the same issue with government ten years ago, but not all. Fifteen per cent would not have raised the first issue they mentioned, 9% the second issue, and 10% the third.

Table 14

Question: In the past year, has your organization made representation to any government body regarding a public controversial issue? If yes, what were the major issues?

	N	%
No	30	38
Yes, one issue cited	20	25
Yes, two issues cited	10	13
Yes, three or more issues cited	20	25

The issues which were raised by our national voluntary associations cover a wide range of topics and our preliminary classification was broad. Most often cited were issues that were political, in the sense that they touched on broad government policies and were being widely discussed in the press, such topics, for example, as immigration, nuclear power, the salaries of Members of Parliament, native rights, and even euthanasia. Next most often mentioned were "self-interest" issues. Health groups, for example, often mentioned seeking improved benefits or conditions for their "clients" or more funds for their own research objectives. Next were issues concerning women, such as abortion or proposed modifications in the Canada Pension Plan; and welfare, such as child care or rehabilitation programs. This questions calls for further analysis (Table 15).

"Lobbying," in the sense of soliciting direct support for an organization's policies from the government or legislative officials is carried out by at least half of the organizations in our sample. The term, however, still seems to carry a certain stigma and some organizations denied lobbying

when in fact they presented briefs, met with government officials, or in other ways sought to make their position heard.

Although the numbers were small, our results do show significant differences of interest group activity between types of associations. The most active groups were the Service and Women's organizations, the least active, the Youth and Fraternal. Perhaps most indicative of the differences are the responses on "lobbying". Admitting to lobbying were 71% of the Women's groups, 67% of the International Service, 65% of the Domestic Service, 50% of the Health associations, but only 18% of the Youth and Fraternal groups.

We recall that it was the Youth and Fraternal, more than any of the other types, that cited Expressive objectives, their interest to a great degree is in the social and personal development of their members. As such, they see such issues of public concern and activity as beyond their terms of reference.

Table 15  
Types of Issues Raised with Government

	Issue 1 %	Issue 2 %	Issue 3 %	Total no. of citati
Political	35	25	19	54
"Self-interest"	17	12	7	25
Women	4	8	7	12
Welfare	55	3	7	10
Educational/Cultural	1	3	2	4

Representation to Government. We have noted that almost two thirds of the organizations in our sample made representations to government during the past year. Associations in all of our categories made such representations, especially those classified under Domestic Service and Women. The Youth associations were least likely to make such representations, many of them defined their tasks in terms of the growth and development of individuals and avoided taking positions on "political" and controversial matters (Table 16).



Table 16  
Associations Making Representations  
to Government by Category

	N	% within each category
Domestic Service	14	88
Women	10	72
International Service	7	58
Fraternal	6	55
Health	10	53
Youth	2	18

Representations, we may note, may be made at various levels of the decision-making process -- to committees that make recommendations, to legislative officials who participate in caucuses and vote, and to executive officers who may set directions and administer. Representations may also be made in the early or late phases of the consideration of a topic by government officials.

To some degree, the concerns of the voluntary associations in our sample vary by type of association. Our International Service organizations were more likely to be concerned with such topics as refugees, immigration, and aid to third world countries. Our Domestic Service associations more often mentioned inflation and consumer protection, laws regarding marijuana, and day care and other social services. Health groups were more likely to cite tax concessions or services for the ill and disabled. Some overlapping of course is evident --- especially regarding subjects that touch on the interests of varied groups -- immigration, abortion, law reforms and others.

Our associations made representation to government during the past year on over 60 different topics. A few were broad and applicable to a wide range of areas, one, for example, dealing with the roles of the government and the private sector. Approximately 2 out of 5 considered topics of general interest or broad political questions of the day, for example, immigration, the status of women, refugees, or

inflation. Another 2 out of 5 were more specific, but still of general concern, for example seat belt legislation, child abuse, violence on television, or Soviet Jewry. Approximately one out of six dealt with still more limited topics, often dear to the hearts of the association members, for example, foot care for pensioners, the drug laetrile in the treatment of cancer, the participation of girls in a cadet program, or the right of the blind to take their dogs into public places. The lines between such levels of course are impossible to draw clearly and many of the representations touch on more than one.

The topics most often mentioned by our organizations were:

Immigration, abortion	- mentioned by 8 groups
Social welfare legislation	- mentioned by 6 groups
Women's rights, law reform	- mentioned by 4 groups
Several topics, including refugees, capital punishment, inflation and marijuana were mentioned by at least three groups.	

The classification and the lists are intended only to be suggestive -- the positions that were taken often differed and the interests were expressed in various ways. Most of the topics, too, it is apparent were issues of the day -- a list one year may be quite different from a list another year.

The process by which groups decide on their representations to government vary considerably. But however it is done and whatever the positions that may be taken, the issues are seriously considered and many participate in the discussions and the preparation of statements. They are expressions of members who wish to be heard and to make their positions known. One major question is beyond our research. How are these representations judged and what influence might they have on those whose opinions and actions become decisive.

Conclusion. In reviewing the results of the research to date, a few general points stand out. First, the voluntary associations that make up our sample, even though they all



meet certain basic criteria and all have broadly similar interests in the welfare of the society, are not all of one piece. They vary greatly in membership, type, structure, methods of operation, and topics of concern.

To some degree, a classification by type, defined broadly as the major categories in which they fall by major objective and interest (Health, Youth, International Service, Domestic Service, Fraternal) or in the case of Women (and to some degree, Fraternal), by membership status, seems to help. Other classifications are more logical, but they may take us further from the perceived reality of the situation. Some problems, for example, concern with bilingualism, government funding, and particular issues apply more to some types of organizations than others. It follows that any government policy on national voluntary associations should recognize and allow of this diversity.

Second, the national voluntary associations are active and responsive to both their members and to changing conditions in the society. The responsiveness does not derive from a different type of member -- the members continue on the whole to represent a well-to-do socio-economic level -- rather it would seem that those who have occupied major roles in the organizations are conscious of movements in their own organizations and in the society as a whole, and act more directly to adapt their objectives, programs, and methods.

Third, interest group behaviour, that is, that activity by which an organization seeks to attain its ends through representations, lobbying, and other such means, tends now to be taken for granted. The leaders of the organizations are expected -- within the accepted procedures of the democratic process -- to make strong cases on behalf of the positions taken by their organizations (including, if called for, the search for funds) to those who have decision-making powers. They may write letters, issue public statements to the media, present briefs to government departments and committees, lobby directly with ministers and civil servants, join with others who have similar goals, and in other ways, effectively present their case. Not to do so

would be remiss of the responsible parties.

Finally, the national voluntary associations look upon themselves as significant contributors to our society and its quality of life. They believe their objectives are worthy and that they are working for good causes -- helping those in need, supporting worthwhile research, educating members of the public, contributing to the personal development of citizens, pressing for just or humanitarian causes, and so on. Other motives, of course, sometimes underlie and enter into the behaviour of voluntary association members, and there is no consensus on the priorities or the weights to be given to the various contributions, yet undoubtedly the activities are often effective and the results evident. Those who participate feel that, as members of their organizations, they are making an important contribution and that, in their efforts, they should not be suppliants; they should be recognized, appreciated and helped, and not be asked to surrender their independence.

APPENDIX A

Associations Completing the Questionnaire  
By Type

YOUTH \* 12

Air Cadet League of Canada  
Army Cadet League of Canada  
Big Brothers of Canada Association  
  
Boys' Clubs of Canada  
Boy Scouts of Canada  
Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs  
  
Canadian Girls in Training  
Canadian Young Judaea  
Girl Guides of Canada  
  
Junior Achievement of Canada  
Red Cross Youth  
Student Christian Movement

\*One questionnaire was received too late to be tabulated.

FRATERNAL 11

Association of Canadian Clubs  
Association of Kinsmen Clubs  
Canadian Progress Clubs  
  
Civitan International  
Elks Grand Lodge  
Grand Orange Lodge of Canada  
  
Lions International  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Sons of Scotland  
  
United Empire Loyalists  
Workers Benevolent Association of Canada

WOMEN 14

Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Womens Clubs  
Canadian Federation of University Women  
Canadian Woman's Christian Temperance Union  
  
Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Federation of Junior Leagues of Canada  
Federated Women's Institutes of Canada  
  
Hadassah-Jizo Organization of Canada  
Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire  
National Action Committee on the Status of Women  
  
National Council of Jewish Women of Canada  
National Council of Women of Canada  
Pioneer Women's Organization of Canada  
  
Voice of Women  
Young Women's Christian Association

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE 12

Amnesty International  
Canadian ORT Organization  
Canadian Unicef Committee



Canadian Crossroads International  
Cansave Children  
Care of Canada  
Canadian University Service Overseas  
Oxiam Canada  
Canadian Red Cross Society  
United Nations Association in Canada  
World Literacy of Canada  
World University Service of Canada

DOMESTIC SERVICE 17

Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies  
Canadian Association in Support of the Native People  
Canadian Council on Children and Youth  
Canadian Council on Social Development  
Canadian Criminology and Corrections Association  
Canadian Federation of Humane Societies  
Canadian Pensioners Concerned  
Canadian Youth Hostels Association  
International Childbirth Education Association  
National Anti-Poverty Organization  
National Association of Friendship Centres  
Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada  
St. Leonard's Society of Canada  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
United Way of Canada  
Vanier Institute of the Family  
Young Men's Christian Association

HEALTH 19

Canadian Association of Hospital Auxiliaries  
Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded  
Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society  
Canadian Cancer Society  
Canadian Cerebral Palsy Association  
Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Canadian Diabetic Association  
Canadian Heart Foundation  
Canadian Mental Health Association  
Canadian National Institute for the Blind  
Canadian Paraplegic Association  
Canadian Public Health Association  
Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled  
Canadian Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association  
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada  
Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada  
Psychiatric Hospital Patients Welfare Association  
Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada  
War Amputations of Canada

APPENDIX B

National Voluntary Organizations in Canada

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

1. In what year was your organization founded in Canada? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How is your Canadian membership structured? Do you have:  
Dues paying members ☐ Yes. Approximately how many? \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ No.  
Non-dues paying volunteers ☐ Yes. Approximately how many? \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ No.  
Clients ☐ Yes. Approximately how many? \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ No.  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Approximately how many? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is your organization national in scope? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Please check the provinces in which you have members.  

<input type="checkbox"/> All provinces	<input type="checkbox"/> British Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/> Nova Scotia
	<input type="checkbox"/> Alberta	<input type="checkbox"/> New Brunswick
<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario	<input type="checkbox"/> Saskatchewan	<input type="checkbox"/> P. E. I.
<input type="checkbox"/> Quebec	<input type="checkbox"/> Manitoba	<input type="checkbox"/> Newfoundland
5. Do your members belong to branches, or do they affiliate directly with the National Office?  
☐ Belong to branches ☐ Affiliate directly ☐ Both  
a) If they belong to branches, are they: ☐ Provincial ☐ Regional ☐ Local
6. Does your organization have a Voluntary Board of Directors? ☐ Yes ☐ No
7. Is your organization associated with an International Organization? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
a) If Yes, is it: a Branch ☐  
an Independent Affiliate ☐  
Other (Explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
b) In what city is the International Head Office located? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where in your organization does the greatest autonomy lie?  
☐ International office ☐ National office ☐ Provincial or Regional office  
☐ Local office ☐ Cannot say. Why not? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Please rank your major sources of funds. Write '1' for the largest source, '2' for the next largest, etc.  

<input type="checkbox"/> Public fund campaigns	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership dues	<input type="checkbox"/> Participation fees
<input type="checkbox"/> Income from investments	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		
10. Regarding French-Canadian or French-language participation, please check the most appropriate statement:  
1 We are an all-English organization.  
2 We have some native French-speaking Canadians in our organization, but our working language is English.  
3 Our National Office operates in English, but we do have French as well as English-language branches.  
4 We have an independent sister French-language organization with a Head Office in Quebec.  
5 We are a completely bilingual organization. Members may communicate in either English or French, and we publish in both languages.  
6 Other (Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

11. What is the major objective of your organization? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Has there been a significant change in objective over the past ten years? Yes No  
a) If Yes, what brought it about? \_\_\_\_\_
13. In recent years, has your organization moved into any new major areas of activity or developed new focuses?  
No  
Yes. Which areas or focuses? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Are the following major responsibilities of the National Office of your Organization? (Please circle the appropriate number.)

Responsibility	A		B If YES:			
	Yes	No	In the past five years has activity in this area:			Was this responsibility first taken on in the past ten years?
			Increased	Stayed the Same	Decreased	Yes No
1) Contact with the Federal Government	1	2	3	4	5	6 7
2) Contact with the International Office of the organization	1	2	3	4	5	6 7
3) Contact with other National Organizations in Canada	1	2	3	4	5	6 7
4) Public relations and/or education on the national level	1	2	3	4	5	6 7
5) Distribution of materials to branches and/or the general public	1	2	3	4	5	6 7
6) Coordination of membership or branch activities throughout Canada	1	2	3	4	5	6 7
7) Fund raising	1	2	3	4	5	6 7
8) 'Trouble-shooting' for branches	1	2	3	4	5	6 7
9) Representation to government on issues of interest	1	2	3	4	5	6 7
10) Organization of conferences	1	2	3	4	5	6 7
11) Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5	6 7



15. Compared to ten years ago, has the general membership of your organization changed significantly in any of the following ways? (Please circle the appropriate number.)

Members	A			B		C
	Has the proportion of members:			If ' <u>increased</u> ' or ' <u>decreased</u> ', is this due to a deliberate change in policy?		Not Relevant
	Increased	Stayed the Same	Decreased	Yes	No	
Women	1	2	3	4	5	6
Men	1	2	3	4	5	6
Under 30	1	2	3	4	5	6
French Canadians	1	2	3	4	5	6
Of minority ethnic groups	1	2	3	4	5	6
Blue collar workers	1	2	3	4	5	6
'Lower' white collar workers, i.e., clerks, secretaries, sales persons	1	2	3	4	5	6
From the Atlantic provinces	1	2	3	4	5	6
From the Prairie provinces	1	2	3	4	5	6
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5	6
_____						

16. Have any of these groups become particularly active in recent years?

\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_ Yes Which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Compared to ten years ago, has the membership of your National Board and national committees changed significantly in any of the following ways? (Please circle the appropriate number.)

Members	A			B		C
	Has the proportion of members:			If ' <u>increased</u> ' or ' <u>decreased</u> ', is this due to a deliberate change in policy?		Not Relevant
	Increased	Stayed the Same	Decreased	Yes	No	
Women	1	2	3	4	5	6
Men	1	2	3	4	5	6
Under 30	1	2	3	4	5	6
French Canadians	1	2	3	4	5	6
Of minority ethnic groups	1	2	3	4	5	6
Blue collar workers	1	2	3	4	5	6
'Lower' white collar workers, i.e., clerks, secretaries, sales persons	1	2	3	4	5	6
From the Atlantic provinces	1	2	3	4	5	6
From the Prairie provinces	1	2	3	4	5	6
Other: _____	1	2	3	4	5	6
_____						

18. Have any of these groups become particularly active on the national level in recent years?

     No

     Yes. Which ones? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. Do you currently have any direct dealings with government, e.g. receive funds or consult on programs or government policies?

     Yes      No

a) If yes, which level(s) of government?      Federal      Provincial      Local

20. In the past five years, has your involvement with government decreased or increased? (Please check the appropriate place on the scale assuming that '3' signifies no change.)

Greatly decreased     1     2     3     4     5 Greatly increased

21. How dependent are you upon government funds to carry on your activities? (Please check the appropriate place on the scale.)

Not dependent at all     1     2     3     4     5 Very greatly dependent

22. Roughly, what percentage of your total budget currently comes from the government?

     %

a) Compared to five years ago, do you receive a greater or lesser proportion of your total budget from government?

     Greater      About the same      Lesser      Not relevant

23. In recent years, has the government instituted any projects which, in effect, have replaced work of your organization?

     No

     Yes. Which projects? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

24. Do you regularly collaborate with any other National Associations?

     No      To some degree      To a great degree

25. Compared to ten years ago, do you collaborate more or less with such organizations?

     More      About the same      Less      Not relevant

26. Which organizations do you work with most closely?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

27. How concerned are the national leaders of your organization with its public image? (Please check the appropriate place on the scale.)

Not at all concerned     1     2     3     4     5 Greatly concerned

28. In the past ten years, has your organization made any effort to change its public image?

     No

     Yes. In what way? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

a) If yes, do you feel that the efforts to change your organization's public image have been successful?

     Yes

     No

29. Does your organization express opinions on public controversial issues?

☐ Yes ☐ No

30. During the past year, has your organization taken a stand on a public controversial issue?

☐ Yes ☐ No

a) If yes, what were the major issues?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

31. If any of these issues had come up ten years ago, would your organization have taken a stand on them?

1) ☐ Yes ☐ No

2) ☐ Yes ☐ No

3) ☐ Yes ☐ No

32. In the past year, has your organization made representation to any government body regarding a public controversial issue?

☐ Yes ☐ No

a) If yes, what were the major issues?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

33. If the same issues had come up ten years ago, would your organization have made representation to government?

1) ☐ Yes ☐ No

2) ☐ Yes ☐ No

3) ☐ Yes ☐ No

34. Does your organization 'lobby' in the sense of soliciting direct support for its policies from the government or legislative officials?

☐ Yes ☐ No

35. In recent years, do you feel that your organization has been affected by any of the following movements or initiatives?

A) Women's Liberation?

1) ☐ No

☐ Yes. In what way? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Is this currently an issue in your organization?

☐ Yes ☐ No

B) Local Action or Citizens Participation?

1) ☐ No

☐ Yes. In what way? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Is this currently an issue in your organization?

☐ Yes ☐ No



C) Canadian Nationalism?

1) ☐ No

☐ Yes. In what way? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Is this currently an issue in your organization?

☐ Yes ☐ No

D) French-Canadian Nationalism?

1) ☐ No

☐ Yes. In what way? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Is this currently an issue in your organization?

☐ Yes ☐ No

E) Regionalism?

1) ☐ No

☐ Yes. In what way? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Is this currently an issue in your organization?

☐ Yes ☐ No

F) Youth or 'Youth culture'?

1) ☐ No

☐ Yes. In what way? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Is this currently an issue in your organization?

☐ Yes ☐ No

G) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

1) In what way? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Is this currently an issue in your organization?

☐ Yes ☐ No

36. In recent years, has your organization experienced major or minor problems with any of the following:

Raising funds? ☐ Yes, major ☐ Yes, minor ☐ No, not a problem

Recruiting active volunteers? ☐ Yes, major ☐ Yes, minor ☐ No, not a problem

Recruiting members? ☐ Yes, major ☐ Yes, minor ☐ No, not a problem

Recruiting staff? ☐ Yes, major ☐ Yes, minor ☐ No, not a problem

37. Have you any other comments about recent changes in your organization or in the role of the National Office?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_





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